

PNNL booth taught electrical safety

“Take Electricity Seriously” was the theme for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Electrical Safety Committee booth at the Expo. More than 500 people attended the high-voltage demonstration and answered the following questions:

1. How do you remove a shock victim from an energized circuit?

If possible, locate and de-energize the electrical circuit. Exercise extreme caution. *Do not* touch the victim with any part of your body or a conductive object until you are sure the victim is no longer receiving the electric shock. You could become part of the circuit. Remain at the scene and aid the injured person within the limitations of your training. Unless a victim's life is in danger from fire or explosion, don't move the person — wait for qualified medical personnel.

2. Where is the electrical disconnect located in your house?

In the electrical panel. It must be labeled “Main Service Disconnect.”

3. How often must Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) be tested, and when do you use GFCI?

Permanently installed GFCIs (receptacles and circuit breakers) are required to be tested at least monthly. Portable GFCIs must be tested before use.



A group of students from Tri-Cities Prep Catholic High School check out the PNNL booth.

GFCIs are used in damp or wet locations such as kitchens, bathrooms, garages and outdoors, as well as for temporary power during construction, remodeling, maintenance, repair and similar activities.

4. What type of ladder must be used to work near electrical equipment?

Fiberglass. A metal ladder will conduct electricity. ■